

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (previously presented): A method for clearing a re-imageable printing form, which comprises treating the printing form with a liquid clearing medium in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, which includes treating the printing form with ultrasound during the treatment thereof with the ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, which includes exposing the printing form to the effects of a heat source during the treatment thereof with the ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium.

Claim 7 (original): The method according to claim 6, which includes providing at least one of an infrared laser, at least one heat emitter and at least one hot-air blower as the heat source.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, which includes exposing the printing form to higher than normal atmospheric pressure during the treatment with the ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 3, which includes providing water as the ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, which includes providing acid as the ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, which includes providing an alkali or a base as the ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, which includes applying the ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium to the printing form from at least one sprayer.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 3, which includes removing the printing form from the influence of light during the treatment with the ~~gaseous~~ liquid clearing medium.

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method according to claim [[1]] 3, which includes performing the steps thereof in one of a printing machine and a clearing device outside a printing machine.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A device for clearing a re-imageable printing form, comprising a device for applying ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium to the printing form in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A device for clearing a re-imageable printing form washed free of ink, comprising a device for applying ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium to the ink-free printing form in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.

Claims 18-19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 16, including an ultrasound source for irradiating the printing form with ultrasound.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 16, including a heat source for heating the printing form.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 21, wherein said heat source is at least one of an infrared laser, at least one heat emitter, and at least one hot-air blower.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 21, including a device for generating higher than normal atmospheric pressure in the environment of the printing form.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 16, wherein said device for applying ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium to the printing form is a sprayer.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 16, including a device for partitioning the printing form against effects of light.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A printing machine having a device for clearing a re-imageable printing form, comprising a device for applying ~~fluid~~ liquid clearing medium to the printing form in a non-abrasive manner, irreversibly clearing all image information on a surface of the printing form.